

# COMMENDING THE GLADES COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

## HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to the brave men and women of my district. Recently there was an outbreak of fires along Lake Okeechobee, Florida's largest lake. The fires started on May 27, 2007 along the Pierce Canal in Glades County, Florida. Boundary fires were created to protect the area.

Glades County EMS Director, Bob Jones, coordinated the mission and had everyone in place. Glades County Sheriff, Stuart Whiddon made his deputies available to help. Lighted signs were posted on the road and volunteers went house to house to warn people of the fires. The highway was closed and one family had to evacuate due to health reasons. No one was taken to the hospital or needed EMS assistance during the six days the fire burned.

Glades County is made up of all volunteer fire departments. Firefighters from Glades County Communities including Buckhead Ridge, Lakeport, Moore Haven, Palmdale, Ortona and Muse responded. These men and women were on site 24 hours a day. In order to protect the area, the volunteers inhaled smoke, and were surrounded by threatening flames. They were assisted by the following departments from neighboring Lee County: San Carlos, Port Authority, Bonita Springs, North Fort Myers, Estero, Fort Myers City, Bayshore, and Cape Coral. In addition, they were also assisted by the Brighton Seminole Fire Department.

I commend Glades County Manager Wendell Taylor, Deputy County Manager, Larry Hilton, and the members of the Glades County Commission, Butch Jones, Chairman, Paul Beck, Vice Chairman, Donna Storter Long, Russell Echols, and Bob Geisler for their presence and constant concern for the citizens of Glades county. I also commend Glades County staff who lent a helping hand.

Many firefighters lost days of pay in order to fulfill their obligation to protect the residents of Glades County. These brave men and women are a tribute to their communities and I commend them for their terrific hard work in battling these fires.

Glades County may be one of the poorest counties in the district, but the people who live and work there are what makes it rich.

# PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN LOLMAUGH

## HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Lolmaugh for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Clark County community through her work with Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Joan started her career with Clark County in 1992 as Manager of Clark County's Cultural Affairs Division. Over the course of her tenure with Clark County, Joan has overseen Win-

chester Cultural Center, the Clark County Museum and Aviation Museum, the Special Events unit which produces large community events such as the Renaissance Festival; the Summer Concert Series at the Government Center Amphitheater; the Galleries and Art Education Program and the Wetlands Interpretive Program, among other functions. Furthermore, Joan was appointed by former Governor Kenny Guinn to the board of the Nevada Arts Council, and in 2002 was honored by the Governor, receiving the Governor's Art Reward for service to the arts.

Prior to her time in Las Vegas, Joan served as assistant director at the Oregon Arts Commission and Director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. She was director and assistant professor of a graduate arts program at the University of Illinois-Springfield. She has served on the boards of the Western States Arts Federation and National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and is currently a member of the Death Valley National Park Advisory Commission. She has also been involved in a number of statewide arts organizations across the country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joan Lolmaugh. Her dedication to enriching lives through the arts is laudable and has enriched countless lives. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

# RECOGNIZING ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH

## HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Joseph the Worker Church, in Fallsington, Pennsylvania, for its 50 years of service and continued dedication to the Bucks County community.

The St. Joseph of the Worker Parish was founded by Archbishop—and future Philadelphia Cardinal—John F. O'Hara on October 1, 1956. A church that once consisted of a small group meeting in a local elementary school has now developed into a vibrant and growing congregation. In the spirit of St. Joseph, the parish church and school are committed to hard work for the betterment of their community—for the religious and laity alike.

Madam Speaker, a strong community can shape the lives of children and young adults—something I saw first hand growing up in a working class family in Northeast Philadelphia. The St. Joseph of the Worker Parish School educates 165 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students of the Parish community. Through quality education and service projects, St. Joseph students learn how to help others and become the leaders of the future.

Over the past 50 years, the parish has helped create a new St. Joseph's Home for Boys and the Martha's Cupboard food pantry. The food pantry's 12 hardworking volunteers service between 10 and 20 families each week with a 2-week supply of non-perishable food. The food is contributed largely from parishioners, in addition to school and community food drives. In conjunction with other organizations, parishioners package and deliver

meals, and purchase Christmas gifts for local needy families.

Madam Speaker, the St. Joseph Church and its congregation have long served as a model for community service, proving that the efforts of the few have profound effects on the many. I offer my congratulations as the parish welcomes Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and concludes their 50th anniversary ceremonies on Sunday, September 30, 2007.

The motto for the 50th anniversary events, "Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future," embodies the true mission of the St. Joseph the Worker Church. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the church's years of history and I thank the parishioners and clergy for their ongoing efforts to educate the youth and improve our society. I wish them another 50 years of success.

# INTRODUCTION OF RETAIL DEPRECIATION BILL

## HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to help our nation's 1.5 million retailers. The bill that I am filing today, along with my Committee colleagues Representatives PHIL ENGLISH, ARTUR DAVIS, and SAM JOHNSON, would provide a quicker cost recovery for improvements to retail-owned property.

Already, retailers or other commercial entities that rent, rather than own their property can recover the costs of improvements over 15 years. Owners of retail property, however, must write-off these same improvements to their property over 39 years. There is little reason for such a distinction; the wear and tear on the property is the same. In fact, studies by the Congressional Research Service, the Treasury Department, and other private economists have found that the current asset lives assigned to buildings and improvements are far too long.

Many small retailers own their buildings and are unable to afford the space in the more desirable malls. One of my constituents, Dave Ratner of Dave's Soda and Pet City in Agawam, MA, testified before Congress earlier this year on this issue. Dave employs 86 people in western Massachusetts at his four locations. He competes with the major pet care chain stores, which often lease pricey space in the malls. Because their property is leased, it is eligible for the quicker cost recovery, providing a significant tax advantage over Dave's shops.

Since half of retail space is owned and half is rented, Congress should try to create parity within this industry. Our retailers employ one in five American workers and generally must remodel their stores every five to seven years in order to keep up with customers' tastes and needs. These retail owners, the majority of whom have less than five employees, are often all you see along Main Street in the small cities and especially in rural areas. Ownership signifies a long-term commitment to the community. We should at least level the playing field for these community-based businesses.

We urge you to join us in supporting legislation to allow a quicker cost recovery for improvements to retail-owned property. It is one